

The Official Action rejects claims 21-31 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. patent 5,408,246 to Inaba et al., U.S. Patent 5,414,443 to Kanatani et al. and either applicant's prior art or U.S. Patent 4,873,516 to Castleberry. The Official Action appears to rely on Inaba et al. for teaching that application of a predetermined number of pulses as recited in the currently pending claims, and cites column 8, lines 4-9 in support of this rejection. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Inaba fails to disclose application of a number of pulses during the scanning period of a gate line.

That is, claim 21, for example, recites addressing a TFT with a scan signal for a predetermined period, supplying a data signal through the TFT during addressing with the scan signal, wherein the predetermined period is time-divided into a predetermined number of divisions and the data signal contains a plurality of pulses having a constant pulse width, wherein an average voltage of the pulses is applied to the pixel electrode after the predetermined period. Thus, claim 21 makes clear that the plurality of pulses are applied during a single, predetermined scan period.

Inaba et al., to the contrary, does not disclose that a plurality of pulses are applied during a scan period, and clearly does not disclose that an average voltage of these pulse is applied after the predetermined scanning period as recited in claim 1. Column 8, lines 4-9 generally disclose that the invention of Inaba et al. is applicable to other known driving modes wherein the pulse number is varied depending on degradation data. This makes clear that the invention of Inaba et al. is not concerned with the specific driving method and Inaba fails to disclose the details of any particular driving method, referring only generally to "other known driving modes." Thus, Inaba fails to disclose or suggest the present invention, where a plurality of pulses are applied during a single, predetermined scan period as recited in the pending claims.

In this regard, the Examiner is directed to the Decision of the Board of Appeals in Application Serial Number 08/885,637, a copy of which is attached hereto. In this decision, an issue similar to that relevant here was decided and the Board found the

specific relationship between the application of signals to the scan and data lines to be dispositive. In that case, the claims recited that a specific signal was applied between the application of a reference signal to one address line and the application of the reference signal to the next address line. The reference relied on by the Examiner, however, disclosed the application of specific signals during a period after all the reference signals had been applied to the address lines, rather than during a period between application of the reference signals to the address lines. Thus, the board found the specific relationship between the application of signals to the scan and data lines to be dispositive and reversed the rejection of the claims in that matter.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully asserted that claims 21-31 and 34-36 are now in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of the pending rejections is requested. If the Examiner believes that any further discussions would be beneficial in this case, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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